

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 045013	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/AU2004/001767	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 December 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 December 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. A63F 13/10 (2006.01) A63F 5/04 (2006.01) G07F 17/34 (2006.01)		
Applicant KONAMI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
- a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:
- ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
- ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
- b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 15 July 2005	Date of completion of this report 30 March 2006
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer S KAUL Telephone No. (02) 6283 2182

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001767

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:

☒ The international application in the language in which it was filed

☐ A translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b))

☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))

☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1-18 as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

☒ the claims:

pages 19-26 as originally filed/furnished

pages* 27 as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

☒ the drawings:

pages 1-8 as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application

☒ claims Nos: 29-47

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos.

relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos.
are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos.
are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*)

☒ no international search report has been established for said claim Nos. 29-47

☐ A meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:

☐ Furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ Furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ Pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b) and 13ter.2.

☐ A meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See Supplemental Box for further details.

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☐ In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:

- ☐ restricted the claims
- ☐ paid additional fees
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
- ☐ neither restricted the claims nor paid additional fees

2. ☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is:

- ☐ complied with.
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are two inventions:

1. Claims 1 to 28, 44, 45 are directed towards a payline in a gaming machine wherein the number of elements in a payline is greater than the number of columns in a matrix. It is considered that setting the number of elements in a payline to be greater than the number of columns in a matrix comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 29 to 41, 46, 47 are directed towards a payline in a gaming machine wherein a predefined payline is selected at random. Selecting a predefined payline at random is considered to comprise a second separate "special technical feature".

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share either of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept.

4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:

- ☐ all parts.
- ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-28

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1 - 28	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1 - 28	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 28	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Citations

D1:US 5611535 A (Tiberio) 18 March 1997

D2:JP 2002-325881 A (Takasago Electric Ind Co Ltd) 12 November 2002

D3:AU 768153 B2 (Aristocrat Technologies Pty Ltd) 31 January 2002

D4:JP 2003-236055 A (Sami KK) 26 August 2003

Prior art documents D3 and D4 are state of the art citations only and are of no further relevance to this report.

Novelty (N) and Inventive Step (IS) of Claims 1 to 28

Claims 1 to 28 are not novel and lack an inventive step when compared to prior art documents D1 and D2, which each disclose all of the essential features of the claimed invention. That is, they disclose gaming machines with win lines having more symbols than there are columns.

Industrial Applicability (IA) of Claims 1 to 28

The claimed invention has industrial applicability in the field of gaming machines.

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40. The method of Claim 38 or 39 wherein said matrix of elements comprises elements bounded by N sides where N is an integer in the range 1 to 20.
41. The method of Claim 40 wherein each of said sides is
5 straight.
42. A gaming machine as substantially herein described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.
43. A method of playing a gaming machine as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 10 44. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 28 wherein adjacent elements are staggered in a horizontal direction.
45. The gaming machine of claim 44 wherein each element of said adjacent elements is bounded by six sides.
- 15 46. The method of any one of claims 29 to 41 wherein adjacent elements are staggered in a horizontal direction.
47. The method of claim 46 wherein each element of said adjacent elements is bounded by six sides.